

Dear brothers and sisters,

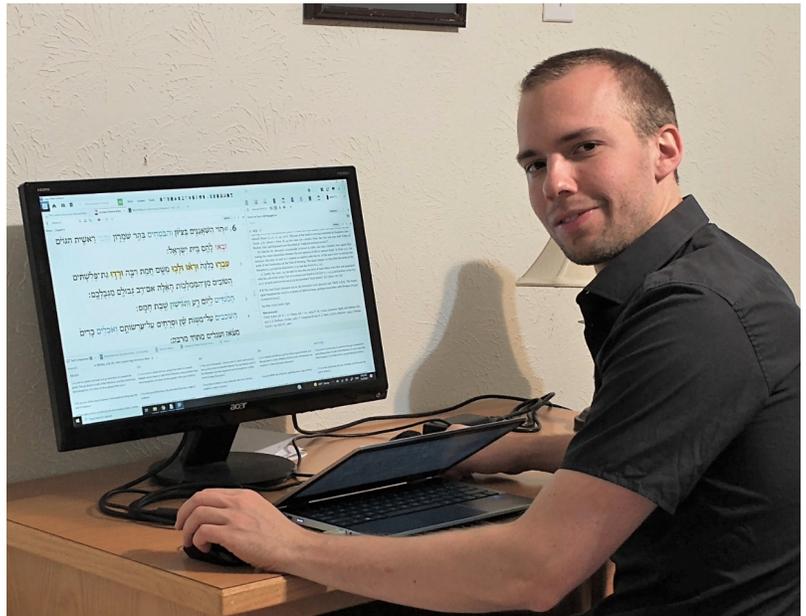
My time at Dallas International University, being trained to translate the bible, has been really good for me. I've been living at the guesthouse with other students. Almost all of these students are future or current missionaries. We get to spend lots of time together in the common rooms and at lunch, talking about what we're learning and future plans. On campus there are also living various missionaries on furlough or who have been evacuated from troubled situations like Afghanistan. There's a lot of potential for us to grow socially and spiritually.



Pray for good conversations and connections with people here. Also keep in prayer where exactly I will serve in the future.

One struggle for me is reading through books on translation theory. I'm a practical person so vague ideas just don't seem very interesting. I'd rather get on with acquiring the craft and doing the work, but I have to be patient.

One useful skill I'm learning is how to spot discourse features in bible stories. For example, in English we might use active verbs like "He arose from his throne" (Judg 3:21) to indicate the main thread of a story and stative verbs like "Now Eglon... was a very fat man" (Judg 3:17) to indicate background information. Well, Hebrew has different verb forms which mark the same parts of speech. In the future, I will have to determine the discourse features of the language I help translate into.



Me using Logos bible translation software

I also discovered there are dramatic pauses in the Hebrew bible which don't usually come out in English translations. For example, **וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַיָּדָבָר מֵעַל יְרֵךְ יְמִינוֹ** translates to "And he took the sword... from his right thigh" (Judg 3:21). The highlighted thingy that looks like a colon on top is actually a pause marker, indicating that it should be read with a break for dramatic effect. In this story, Ehud is notably left-handed and this allows him to get away with hiding a sword on his right thigh. He slays Eglon, king of Moab, and delivers Israel. If you look back up at Judg 3:17 I referenced, that also has a dramatic pause.

It is important to know what bits of a bible story are important and where the pauses are in order to tell the story accurately in a new language.

Only one month remains in my second semester here. I have a lot of final projects due soon, including a fifteen-page paper going through Isaiah 53, translating from Hebrew to English and commenting on translation challenges. **Pray that I may finish everything on time and remember information which will be helpful in the future.**

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Christmastime!

In Christ,
Joel